

BOOK NOTICE

Fleas of Eastern United States. By Irving Fox, Ames, Iowa.

The Iowa State College Press, February, 1940. 9 × 6 inches.

vii + 191 p., 31 pl. \$3.00.

This monograph on the fleas of eastern United States is a welcome addition to entomological literature. Many working entomologists have little exact knowledge of the various species of fleas and are apt to assume that a specimen is a certain species because it was found on a particular host. There is no longer any necessity for inconclusive identifications because Mr. Fox's work includes 55 species, in five families and 33 genera, found east of the one-hundredth meridian, exclusive of Texas. A brief introduction deals with the collection, preservation, morphology, terminology and life-histories of fleas in general while the balance of the book is devoted exclusively to keys to the suborders, families, genera, and species, together with descriptions of the males and females of each species, references to the literature of each species, detailed records of distribution, and eastern host records. There is also a synonymic index, a host index and a selected bibliography together with 31 plates embracing 166 figures, mostly of male genitalia and heads of males and females, which are of systematic importance. It may surprise many to find that various mammals are hosts to a half-dozen or more species of fleas. For example, the dog is host to six species, the cat to five, and *Homo sapiens*, that noble and self-important member of the order Primates, to nine. Fleas are important in view of their implication in the transmission of diseases and because they parasitize various mammalian and avian hosts. Entomologists and public health technicians in the east will find in Mr. Fox's book the facilities for identifying the various eastern species, without hunting through all the literature and in addition they will no longer have to be concerned with the inadequate and piece-meal bits of descriptive matter that occur in the general text-books on entomology.—H. B. W.